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(54) Title: MANUFACTURE OF ISOFLAVONES

(57) Abstract: A process for manufacturing a hydroxylated isoflavone of the formula (I) given in the description comprises reacting an appropriately substituted 2-hydroxydeoxybenzoin of the formula (II), also given in the description, with a formic acid anhydride of the formula  $\text{HCOOCOR}^3$ , wherein  $\text{R}^3$  signifies  $\text{C}_{2-20}$ -alkyl or various other groups as given in the description, in the presence of a base or in a solvent which acts as a base, and if necessary promoting the ensuing hydrolysis of the so-produced acylated form of the hydroxylated isoflavone of the formula I by acidification. Of particular interest as products of this process are the 5,7-dihydroxyisoflavones, e.g. genistein (5,7,4'-trihydroxyisoflavone). Isoflavones display many useful biochemical effects.

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